

## **HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Paul Wyman, Vice-President Robert B. Bray, Member Jack Dodd, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by President Paul Wyman. Commissioner Brad Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Wyman offered a word of prayer.

### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on August 2, 2021, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:**

#### **Howard County Recorder:**

##### *Approval of the Northpointe Engineering & Surveying Contract:*

Howard County Recorder Jennifer Jack presented the contract with Northpointe Engineering & Surveying for the recording of online access to a real estate database, Laredo. The contract was reviewed and approved by Howard County Attorney Alan Wilson. Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve the contract with Northpointe Engineering & Surveying. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

##### *Approval of the Contend Communications & Development, LLC Contract:*

Howard County Recorder Jennifer Jack presented the contract with Contend Communications & Development, LLC. The contract was reviewed and approved by Howard County Attorney Alan Wilson. Commissioner Bray made a motion to approve the contract with Contend Communications & Development, LLC. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Resolution 2021-BCCR-11:**

Commissioner Wyman submitted a resolution of the Howard County Board of Commissioners encouraging everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccination. A motion was made by Commissioner Bray to approve Resolution 2021-BCCR-11 Resolution of the Howard County Board of Commissioners Encouraging the COVID-19 Vaccination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act:**

Commissioner Paul Wyman submitted the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Plan for 2021-2022:

##### *A. Proposed Actions to Respond to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency:*

- i. Highway Building improvements – Estimated cost of \$1,500,000.00
- ii. Government Center Building improvements – Estimated cost of \$350,000.00
- iii. County Courthouse Building improvements – Estimated cost of \$750,000.00
- iv. County Mansion Building improvements – Estimated cost of \$50,000.00
- v. County Jail improvements – Estimated cost of \$100,000.00
- vi. COVID-19 testing & vaccine investment – Estimated cost of \$50,000.00
- vii. Grant fund for addiction & mental health services – Estimated cost of \$500,000.00

##### *B. Proposed Action to Respond to the Negative Economic Impacts of COVID-19:*

- i. Small business grant program – Estimated cost of \$500,000.00
- ii. Hotel Conference Center funding – Estimated cost of \$500,000.00
- iii. Grant fund for housing – Estimated cost of \$250,000.00
- iv. Job training assistance – Estimated cost of \$500,000.00

*C. Proposed Uses for the Provision of Governmental Services Revenue Loss Funds:*

- i. Trail development – Estimated cost of \$250,000.00
- ii. County software update – Estimated cost of \$525,000.00
- iii. Records digitalization – Estimated cost of \$500,000.00
- iv. Highway equipment – Estimated cost of \$500,000.00
- v. COAD Identification – Estimated cost of \$5,000.00
- vi. Prosecutor technology – Estimated cost of \$20,000.00
- vii. County building repairs – Estimated cost of \$300,000.00

*D. Proposed Actions to Invest in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure:*

- i. Water/sewer infrastructure projects – Estimated cost of \$500,000.00
- ii. Drainage/water quality improvements – Estimated cost of \$3,000,000.00
- iii. Broadband infrastructure projects – Estimated cost of \$2,000,000.00

Commissioner Bray made a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Plan for 2021-2022. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:**

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on August 13, 2021, in the amount of \$832,690.58 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims for payment on August 16, 2021, in the amount of \$1,04043.65 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Ratify Claims:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented a claim from Royal Custom Painting, LLC in the amount of \$24,415.00 for ratification. A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to ratify the claim for Royal Custom Painting, LLC in the amount of \$24,415.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Reports were submitted for review and accepted by the Board:
  - a. Treasurer's Office Monthly Report ending June 30, 2021

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Resident Paula Davis of 2722 S. 344 E., Kokomo, Indiana 46902 – Mrs. Davis is the Chapter Chair for Moms for Liberty of Howard County. Mrs. Davis stated the Moms for Liberty is dedicated to the “survival of America by unifying, educating, and empowering parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government.” Ms. Davis stated that they believe that “parental rights don’t stop at the classroom door,” nor do they want to “co-parent with the government.” Ms. Davis stated that they wanted to hold decision makers accountable. Ms. Davis went on to explain the organization she represents. She explained that Moms for Liberty represents all Howard County schools and are concerned with the direction of education and their children. Moms for Liberty explained some concerns with the Howard County Commissioners. They do not believe that schools should have a say in whether or not their kids wear masks or receive a vaccine. Ms. Davis said they also strongly believe that in-person learning is the best for students, that healthy children should not be quarantined, and that they don’t support steps to close schools or do contact tracing. Ms. Davis stated that there have not been any children in Howard County that have died due to COVID-19. Ms. Davis concluded her presentation by reiterating that the group she represents does not “co-parent with the government.”

Resident Tiffani Rodabaugh of 314 W. Walnut St., Kokomo, Indiana 46902 – Ms. Rodabaugh is the Vice-Chair of the Moms for Liberty of Howard County. Ms. Rodabaugh stated that for the last year and a half, she believes that liberties “are being compromised” for school-aged children and parents. She went on to explain what beliefs the group represents. Mrs. Rodabaugh stated that she is thankful that there are not any mask mandates at this time, and that they

are hopeful that the citizens of Howard County will continue to be allowed to decide for themselves and their children. Ms. Rodabaugh stated that they are hopeful that schools would change their policy on contact tracing and quarantining students. She stated that she believed this is compromising medical privacy. She concluded by saying that she believes that “there is no such thing as freedom” if citizens have to wear a mask, continue quarantining practices, and/or receiving the vaccine.

Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S. Greentown, Indiana – Mr. Semon asked if the solar ordinance would be ready by the time of the Board of Zoning Appeals meets on August 24, 2021. Commissioner Wyman stated that the ordinance will not be ready in time for the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on August 24, 2021. Mr. Wyman did say that it will be updated soon, but no time frame was given. Mr. Semon asked if the only comments that the Commissioners are looking at are from the ten-day public comment period. Mr. Wyman stated that they are taking all comments into consideration, not just the ten-day public comment period.

Resident Dr. Jennifer Sylvester of 3155 Congress Dr., Kokomo, Indiana 46902 – Dr. Sylvester is a local physician representing the Moms for Liberty of Howard County. Dr. Sylvester stated that she has concerns as the children have gone back to school because some of them have to wear masks. She stated that in Germany, a study was done to examine the affects of wearing a mask. She stated that the results were that the CO2 levels that were being inhaled were six times the acceptable limit. Dr. Sylvester stated that it is important to consider how much carbon dioxide that the children are inhaling for hours on end and the affects that can have. There was also a study performed on clean masks versus brand-new masks. She explained that six children and one adult participated in this study. They didn’t find any traces of the COVID-19, but they did find traces of several other diseases and illnesses. She also alleged that a lot of dental issues were being development due to dry mouth from children wearing mask for long periods of a time.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners  
at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m. on a motion  
made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by  
Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.***

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

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PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

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ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

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JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

Howard County Commissioners’ Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2021